

## CLAIMS

### WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink cartridge for detachable mounting on a connecting member of an ink jet recording apparatus, comprising:

an ink accommodating portion shaped to contain ink;

an ink supply hole for connection to the connecting member;

an ink flow passage communicating the ink accommodating portion with the ink supply hole;

a valve unit disposed in the ink flow passage between the ink accommodating portion and the ink supply hole, the valve unit including a movable valve portion and a fixed valve portion, the movable valve portion being arranged for reciprocable motion along a line that lies in a horizontal plane into and out of contact with the fixed valve portion; and

a film defining at least part of the ink flow passage.

2. The ink cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a porous member disposed in said ink accommodating portion.

3. The ink cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a packing member disposed in a portion of said ink flow passage.

4. The ink cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a seal member blocking said ink supply hole.

5. The ink cartridge of claim 1, wherein said ink supply hole lies in a horizontal plane.